



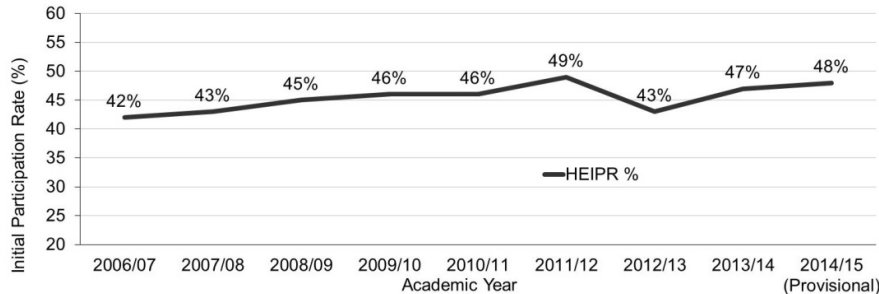
Participation Rates In Higher Education: Academic Years 2006/2007 – 2014/2015 (Provisional)



SFR45/2016, 15th September 2016

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the latest provisional initial participation rates for Higher Education (HE). The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) is an estimate of the likelihood of a young person participating in Higher Education by age 30 based on current participation rates.

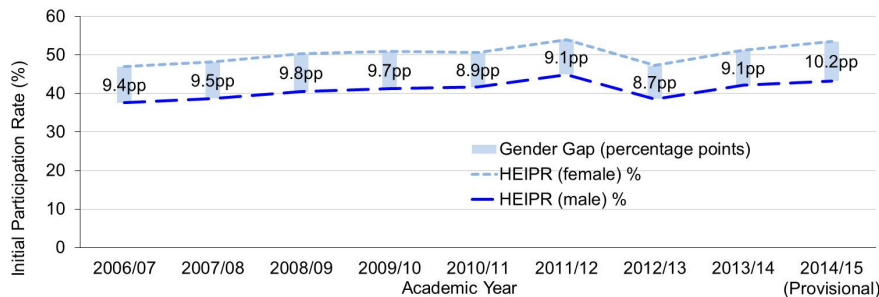
Chart 1. The HEIPR continues to increase, reaching 48% in 2014/15 up from 42% in 2006/07



The provisional HEIPR for 2014/15 is 48%, an increase of 1.7 percentage points from last year.

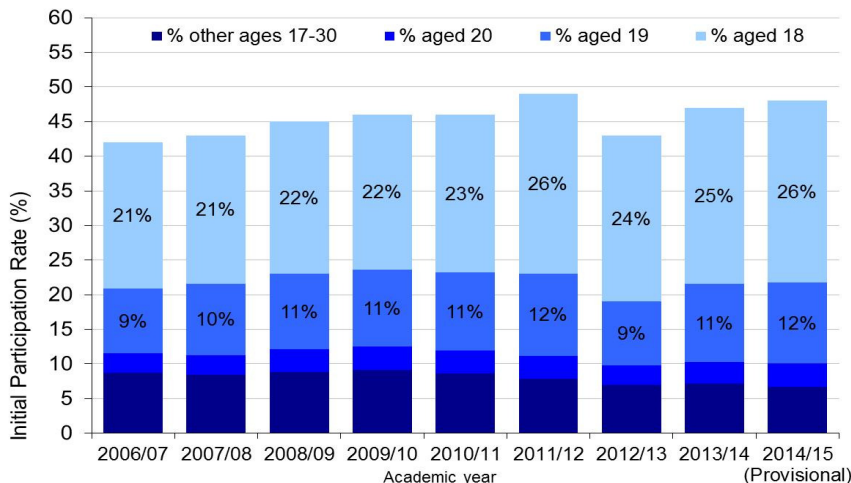
Apart from a fluctuation in 2011/12 and 2012/13, coinciding with the introduction of a higher tuition fee cap, we have seen a steady rise in the HEIPR since 2006/07.

Chart 2. The gender gap in participation has increased to 10 percentage points.



Whilst the HEIPR for both males and females has increased since last year, the gender gap in 2014/15 has widened and is estimated to be 10.2 percentage points, up from 9.1 percentage points a year earlier.

Chart 3. The 2014/15 HEIPR participation rate for 18 year olds is the highest in the series.



Individuals are more likely to participate in higher education for the first time at age 18 than at any other age. The 2014/15 initial participation rate for 18 year olds is the highest in the series at 26%, up by 0.8 percentage points compared to 2013/14 and 0.3 percentage points above the previous high in 2011/12.

The 2014/15 initial participation rate for 19 year olds increased by 0.3 percentage points to 12%, up from 11% in 2013/14.

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About this release

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the latest provisional initial participation rates for Higher Education (HE). It covers 17-30 year old English domiciled first-time participants in HE at UK HE Institutions, and at English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges.

The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) has been published by DfE (and former Departments) since 2004, and the measure is an estimate of the likelihood of a young person participating in Higher Education by age 30 based on current participation rates.

In this publication

The following tables are included in the SFR:

Main tables

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Table 2. Higher Education Initial Participation Rates by Age, 2013/14 and 2014/15 (provisional)

Table 3. Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Males by Age, 2013/14 and 2014/15 (provisional)

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Table A. Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR), 1999/00 to 2006/07 (based on old methodology)

Table B. Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-20 year olds (HEIPR20), 2006/07 to 2014/15

Table C. Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-60 year olds (HEIPR60), 2006/07 to 2014/15

Table D. Postgraduate Initial Participation Rate for 17-30 year olds (PGIPR), 2006/07 to 2014/15

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at hestatistics@bis.gsi.gov.uk

1. Introduction

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the latest provisional initial participation rates for Higher Education (HE). It covers 17-30 year old English domiciled first-time participants in HE at UK HE Institutions, and at English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges. The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) has been published by DfE (and former Departments) since 2004¹, and the measure is an estimate of the likelihood of a young person participating in Higher Education by age 30 based on current participation rates.

Due to ongoing methodological improvements in the estimation of the number of initial participants in Higher Education, the complete time series of participation rates provided in this release has been recalculated. Further information on any resulting revisions and their impact on the HEIPR can be found in Revisions Section of the SFR.

Figures for the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the first decimal place are also provided in the tables to inform comparisons over time.

2. Key Points

Headline measure – HEIPR 17 to 30

The provisional HEIPR estimate for the 2014/15 academic year was 48% (Chart 1), up by 1.7 percentage points compared with the estimate for 2013/14. This growth was driven by an increase of about 12,000 entrants aged 17 to 30, up from 313,910 in 2013/14 to 325,470 in 2014/15.

Age specific rates

In 2014/15 the initial participation rate for 18 year-olds, the largest age group, was the highest in the series at 26%, up by 0.8 percentage points compared to 2013/14 and 0.3 percentage points above the previous high of 2011/12 (Chart 3); the increase in the number of participating 18 year-olds outstripped the rate of population growth thus causing the rate to increase.

There has also been an increase of around 1,900 initial entrants of those aged 21 to 30 in 2014/15 compared with the previous year, reversing the pattern of decreasing mature student participation since 2009/10.

Time series since 2006/07

The HEIPR has followed an increasing trend since the existing methodology was introduced in 2006/07, increasing by 6.1 percentage points from 42% to 48% in 2014/15. In 2011/12, there was a break in the trend as the HEIPR increased to 49% followed by a large decrease in 2012/13 to 43%, the first time that the initial participation rate had fallen since 2006/07. The 2011/12 increase appears to have been predominantly driven by more students choosing not to defer entry in that year in order to avoid having to pay a higher tuition fee, with a consequent reduction in participation among 19 year olds in 2012/13. Information available from UCAS shows that deferrals have returned to more typical levels since 2012/13.

¹ 2006/07 is the first year for which data are available using the current methodology. The latest figures (for 2006/07 to 2014/15) are not comparable to the historical time series provided in Supplementary Table A. Details of the methodological changes can be found in the Notes to Users section.

Gender comparisons

The provisional HEIPR estimate grew faster for females between 2013/14 and 2014/15 than for males. The estimate for females in 2014/15 was 53%, up by 2.3 percentage points compared with the estimate of 51% in 2013/14. For males the estimate in 2014/15 was 43%, up by 1.2 percentage points compared with the estimate of 42% in 2013/14. The difference in the initial participation rates of males and females has increased by 1.1 percentage points in 2014/15 compared with a year earlier; the difference is now estimated to be 10.2 percentage points (Chart 2).

Mode of study comparisons

The provisional HEIPR estimate for full-time study in 2014/15 was 44%, up by 1.7 percentage points compared with the estimate for 2013/14 of 42%. The provisional HEIPR for part-time study in 2014/15 was 4%, similar to 2013/14, the lowest in the series. The initial participation rate for part-time students was estimated to be 6% from 2006/07 to 2011/12 following which it began to decrease in 2012/13.

3. Main Tables

Table 1: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 2006/07 to 2014/15 (provisional)

Academic Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15 (Provisional)
HEIPR (male and female) %	42	43	45	46	46	49	43	47	48
	(42.2)	(43.4)	(45.4)	(46.0)	(46.1)	(49.3)	(42.9)	(46.6)	(48.3)
Initial entrants (thousands)	282	292	310	321	323	340	293	314	325
HEIPR (male) %	38	39	41	41	42	45	39	42	43
	(37.6)	(38.7)	(40.5)	(41.2)	(41.7)	(44.9)	(38.6)	(42.1)	(43.3)
Initial entrants (thousands)	126	131	140	146	148	157	134	145	150
HEIPR (female) %	47	48	50	51	51	54	47	51	53
	(47.0)	(48.2)	(50.3)	(50.9)	(50.6)	(54.0)	(47.3)	(51.2)	(53.5)
Initial entrants (thousands)	156	161	170	175	175	183	158	169	176
HEIPR (full-time) %	36	37	39	40	40	44	38	42	44
	(35.8)	(37.3)	(39.2)	(40.0)	(40.2)	(43.5)	(38.2)	(42.4)	(44.1)
Initial entrants (thousands)	239	251	267	278	281	298	260	284	296
HEIPR (part-time) %	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	4	4
	(6.4)	(6.1)	(6.1)	(6.0)	(5.9)	(5.9)	(4.6)	(4.2)	(4.1)
Initial entrants (thousands)	43	42	43	42	42	42	33	30	29

Notes: Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

Table 2: Higher Education Initial Participation Rates by Age: 2013/14 and 2014/15 (provisional)

2013/14				2014/15 (provisional)		
Age	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	1,060	651,000	0.2%	1,090	654,000	0.2%
18	166,625	656,000	25.4%	172,895	659,000	26.2%
19	77,010	678,000	11.4%	77,975	667,000	11.7%
20	21,010	686,000	3.1%	23,420	692,000	3.4%
21	10,740	716,000	1.5%	11,030	701,000	1.6%
22	7,345	740,000	1.0%	7,690	733,000	1.0%
23	5,620	743,000	0.8%	5,960	757,000	0.8%
24	4,840	735,000	0.7%	4,945	756,000	0.7%
25	4,315	748,000	0.6%	4,205	746,000	0.6%
26	3,875	734,000	0.5%	4,105	757,000	0.5%
27	3,280	737,000	0.4%	3,565	743,000	0.5%
28	3,005	748,000	0.4%	3,150	744,000	0.4%
29	2,650	732,000	0.4%	2,840	754,000	0.4%
30	2,530	740,000	0.3%	2,600	736,000	0.4%
17-30 (overall)	313,910		46.6%	325,470		48.3%

Notes: Figures for the HEIPR are generally rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. However, in this table the age specific initial participation rates are rounded to the nearest decimal place, counts of initial entrants to the nearest five, and population counts to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

Table 3: Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Males by Age: 2013/14 and 2014/15 (provisional)

2013/14				2014/15 (provisional)		
Age	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	525	336,000	0.2%	505	336,000	0.2%
18	74,915	337,000	22.2%	77,845	340,000	22.9%
19	37,900	347,000	10.9%	37,920	343,000	11.1%
20	10,510	350,000	3.0%	11,655	355,000	3.3%
21	5,295	363,000	1.5%	5,390	358,000	1.5%
22	3,405	377,000	0.9%	3,500	372,000	0.9%
23	2,510	379,000	0.7%	2,675	385,000	0.7%
24	2,035	371,000	0.5%	2,035	386,000	0.5%
25	1,805	375,000	0.5%	1,790	377,000	0.5%
26	1,615	365,000	0.4%	1,700	380,000	0.4%
27	1,345	369,000	0.4%	1,460	369,000	0.4%
28	1,220	375,000	0.3%	1,185	373,000	0.3%
29	1,085	365,000	0.3%	1,120	378,000	0.3%
30	985	368,000	0.3%	1,020	368,000	0.3%
17-30 (overall)	145,150		42.1%	149,800		43.3%

Notes: Figures for the HEIPR are generally rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. However, in this table the age specific initial participation rates are rounded to the nearest decimal place, counts of initial entrants to the nearest five, and population counts to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

Table 4: Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Females by Age: 2013/14 and 2014/15 (provisional)

2013/14				2014/15 (provisional)		
Age	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	535	316,000	0.2%	585	318,000	0.2%
18	91,710	319,000	28.7%	95,040	319,000	29.8%
19	39,100	330,000	11.8%	40,040	325,000	12.3%
20	10,495	336,000	3.1%	11,765	337,000	3.5%
21	5,445	354,000	1.5%	5,640	343,000	1.6%
22	3,940	364,000	1.1%	4,185	362,000	1.2%
23	3,110	364,000	0.9%	3,280	371,000	0.9%
24	2,805	364,000	0.8%	2,910	371,000	0.8%
25	2,510	373,000	0.7%	2,415	369,000	0.7%
26	2,260	370,000	0.6%	2,405	378,000	0.6%
27	1,935	368,000	0.5%	2,110	373,000	0.6%
28	1,785	373,000	0.5%	1,970	372,000	0.5%
29	1,565	367,000	0.4%	1,720	376,000	0.5%
30	1,545	372,000	0.4%	1,580	369,000	0.4%
17-30 (overall)	168,740		51.2%	175,640		53.5%

Notes: Figures for the HEIPR are generally rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. However, in this table the age specific initial participation rates are rounded to the nearest decimal place, counts of initial entrants to the nearest five, and population counts to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

4. Note to Users

The HEIPR National Statistic has been published by DfE (and former Departments) since 2004, and the measure is an estimate of the actual entry rate in the current year of people who had not previously entered higher education at each age from 17 to 30, based on the current entry rate of previous non-entrants.

The figures in this SFR were derived from data on Higher Education students collected from publicly funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the United Kingdom and from the University of Buckingham (from 2004/05) by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and from Further Education Colleges (FECs) in England by the Further Education Data Service, in Wales by the Welsh Government, and in Scotland by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Population estimates were acquired from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which have been converted to an academic year basis by the Department for Education (DfE).

The HEIPR is a sum of the participation rates for each age from 17 to 30 inclusive. For each age from 17 to 30, the initial participation rate is calculated as the fraction of the academic year population that are initial entrants. These rates are added to create the total HEIPR. The HEIPR is not a sum of the total number of initial entrants divided by the total academic year population. Doing this would make the false assumption of an equal likelihood of participation across all ages. Further information about the methodology can be found in the National Statistics Quality Review of Higher Education participation statistics (2003) at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-reviews/theme/children--education-and-skills/nsqr-24/index.html>.

The HEIPR counts English-domiciled 17-30 year old higher education students. Students are counted if they participate for at least six months on a course expected to last for at least six months, except that students are not counted if they have participated in Higher Education previously for at least six months. Students at FECs in England, Scotland and Wales are counted if they are on courses designated as National Vocational Qualification Level 4 or above, or are listed as Higher Education courses.

The HEIPR does not count English domiciled Higher Education students (as defined above):

- at FECs in Northern Ireland;
- at privately funded institutions²;
- at institutions outside the UK.

Information on these students is not currently available to the Department in sufficient detail to be included in the calculations; however some estimates of their likely impact are made in Section 5.

The HEIPR includes students studying via both Full-time (FT) and Part-time (PT) modes. FT study is defined by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as attendance at an institution for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks per year, with learning activity amounting to an average of at least 21 hours per week. The PT mode refers to study which is less intensive than this definition. There is no lower limit on the intensity of PT courses for inclusion in the HEIPR.

In order to ensure that only initial participants are counted in the HEIPR in a given year, algorithms are applied to match back over 12 years for HE data and FE data³. This method looks back over the previous years' HE and FE datasets and checks whether a student appears in these datasets, recorded as studying at HE level for a minimum period of six months. If so, they are eliminated from the calculations as they are not initial participants in the current year. Matching the 2014/15 figures back over 12 years ensures that any 30 year old in the dataset, who has at least six months' prior HE experience, can be detected all the way back to when they were 18 years-old. The matching algorithms are provided to DfE by HEFCE.

² with the exception of University of Buckingham as this provider has supplied a full and quality assured HESA Student Return since the Academic Year 2004/05

³ FE datasets are matched back no further than 2002/03 in this publication.

2007/08 was the first year for which this approach was possible (as 12 years' worth of HE data is available up to that point). In order to provide some time series comparison, and to demonstrate the impact of this change, the 2006/07 figure was also calculated using this methodology – although this used one less year of matching due to data availability. The 2006/07 HEIPR measure created using the new methodology can be found in Table 1 of this SFR, and the 2006/07 HEIPR measure using the old methodology can be found in Supplementary Table A (see Background and Methodology Section for more details).

5. Initial Participants not covered by HEIPR

Whilst sufficient detail to include initial participants at Alternative Providers or studying wholly overseas in the HEIPR is not available, we have investigated how much these groups could contribute to the HEIPR estimate.

Alternative Provider students

2014/15 was the first academic year of the HESA Alternative Provider Student Record, which collected data on 63 Alternative Providers (AP) of Higher Education. The Experimental Statistics from this record showed there were approximately 15,000 initial participants at these Alternative Providers. In the context of the 2014/15 HEIPR, these entrants could add an estimated 1.3 percentage points to the participation rate.

The potential contribution of alternative providers to the HEIPR could be higher than 1.3 percentage points because of exclusions from coverage in the HESA data. First, the AP Student Record only covers providers with courses designated for student support. Second, the 2014/15 version of the record only covered the larger set of providers (with over 50 students). Next year's 2015/16 AP Student Record will cover all alternative providers with designated courses.

When the coverage increases and the HESA statistics are no longer of experimental nature we would hope to incorporate Alternative Providers into the overall HEIPR estimate.

The HESA Experimental Statistical First Release on enrolments and qualifications from the 2014/15 AP Student Record is available at: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/15-06-2016/sfr235-alternative-providers>

Students studying wholly overseas

The 'Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development' (OECD) publishes figures on the number of students studying wholly overseas at a national level in their annual publication 'Education at a Glance'. Latest data shows that there were an estimated 26,100⁴ UK students studying wholly overseas in 2013/14.

If we assume that the 26,100 UK students overseas have a similar profile to students enrolled at UK institutions with a study year abroad (as recorded by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)), then approximately 4,400 would be English domiciled initial entrants to higher education studying wholly overseas. In the context of the 2014/15 HEIPR, these entrants could add an estimated 0.7 percentage points to the participation rate. Since the data necessary to disaggregate these students appropriately to the HEIPR criteria are not available, these participants are not included in the main HEIPR measure.

⁴ This estimate of UK students studying wholly overseas is lower than the number published by OECD in 2014 and earlier years because from 2012 a considerable number of countries supplied data only on international students, and not on foreign students. OECD defined an international student as one who has left his or her country, or territory of origin, and moved to another country or territory with the singular objective of studying. Foreign students are non-citizens enrolled at an institution of education outside their home country, but who have not necessarily crossed a border to study. Foreign students are not strictly mobile and cause for an over count of actual mobility figures.

6. Other Data Sources

There are various other publications that provide estimated participation rates and show how these contribute to the skill levels of the working population in England which are described in this section.

UCAS Entry Rates

UCAS statistics provide an early indication of Higher Education entry rates, at least a year ahead of the HEIPR release. The entry rates published by UCAS can be taken as being very close to all recruitment to full-time undergraduate higher education; they do not however include part-time entrants and there may be additional differences from the HEIPR caused by UCAS' method of calculating the population estimates. Full details can be found at: <https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/eoc-report-2015-v2.pdf>

UCAS entry rates for 18-year-olds are higher than the equivalent initial participation rates reported in this publication, but the percentage point growth is comparable. In 2013/14 the 18-year-old entry rate from UCAS was 29.2%, and 30.4% in 2014/15, a 1.2 percentage point increase. The full-time initial entry rate for 18-year-olds that contributes towards the HEIPR was 24.7% in 2013/14, and 25.6% in 2014/15, a 0.9 percentage points increase.

The latest available entry rates from UCAS refer to the 2015/16 academic year and show that 18 year-olds living in England are more likely than ever to enter Higher Education. The proportion of the 18 year-entry rate increased by 0.9 percentage points to 31.3% in 2015/16. In addition, over 40% of young people in England had been accepted to higher education by age 19. The proportion of young people who enter higher education by the time they are aged 19 has increased to record levels for England (42.1%).

OECD Estimates of Initial Entry to Tertiary-Level Education

The 'Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development' (OECD) publishes entry rates to tertiary education on an internationally comparable basis in their annual publication 'Education at a Glance' (EAG). The 2016 edition was published on 15 September this year. The reported UK entry rate to Tertiary Level education in 2013/14 was 54%, which compared to an average of 61% across OECD-reporting countries. The methodology for calculating this rate is largely in-line with the HEIPR60, shown in Supplementary Table C (calculated as the sum of age specific participation rates), however it differs in that:

- It provides the entry rate for students domiciled in all UK administrations prior to study, and so is not restricted to English domiciled entrants alone;
- It identifies initial entrants solely based on prior qualification information declared to HESA in administrative data; additional students are discounted as initial entrants in HEIPR through matching to records of study periods in earlier years.

Estimates of the Level of Highest Qualification Held by Adults in England

Highest qualifications held of the working population are published by the Department for Education in Tables 14 and 15 of the Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held>

HEFCE Young Participation Rates

Maps of young HE participation rates for local areas are published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) at: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/yp/>

7. Revisions

As revisions and updates to the source data from HESA, HEFCE, Further Education Data Service, Scottish Funding Council, the Welsh Government and the population estimates and projections from ONS and the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) are made available at different times during the year, any revisions to the provisional figures for 2014/15 will be published as soon as the provisional figures for 2015/16 are available. The Department is planning to publish the provisional figures for 2015/16 in Autumn 2017.

Estimates of the number of initial participants have been revised for the academic years 2006/07 to 2013/14 following improvements to the data linking procedures that are applied by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to identify individuals who already have a higher education qualification. As robust formal identifiers for individuals are not available, a fuzzy matching linking process is used for identifying entrants who have been in higher education previously. This process is constantly reviewed and a number of improvements have been made in recent years including: enhancing matching for individuals with missing address information (in particular, postcode prior to entry); the use of name indexes to reduce the effect of shortened names and nicknames; and stronger validation of formal identifiers where available.

This year, the number of initial participants aged 17 to 30 in 2013/14 has been revised upwards by about 150 students (compared to estimates published in September 2015), this has had a negligible effect on the HEIPR estimates.

8. Background and Methodology

In November 2002, the Department for Education and Skills commissioned a National Statistics Quality Review of Higher Education participation statistics. The review was carried out independently by Professor Ramsden in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidelines and was designed to ensure rigour and transparency. The report on the review was published in July 2003 and is available on the Office for National Statistics website, at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-reviews/theme/children--education-and-skills/nsqr-24/index.html>. The report recommended that the HEIPR be a measure of initial participation in higher education.

In August 2004, the Department for Education and Skills commissioned a further review to assess the feasibility of disaggregating the HEIPR by ethnicity, disability, social class and region. This review was also carried out by Professor Ramsden. The report on this review was published in August 2005 and is available at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/publicationDetail/Page1/RR676>

In December 2006, the National Audit Office published a review of the data systems underpinning target measurement in a number of Government Departments. The HEIPR methodology was reviewed as part of this process. The report is available on the National Audit Office website, at: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0607/third_validation_compendium_re.aspx

The methodology for calculating the HEIPR was revised in 2007, in line with recommendations set out in the National Statistics Quality Review and the recent National Audit Office review. The details of the revisions and their impact on the HEIPR time series were reported in Statistical First Release 03/2007, "Methodological Revisions to the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)", which is available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110206224126/http://education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000714/index.shtml>

The methodology for calculating the HEIPR was further revised in 2009 due to a change in the underlying data. Details of the revisions were reported in the Statistical First Release 03/2009, "Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/00-2007/08 (Provisional)" which is available at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110206224126/http://education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000839/index.shtml>

Details of the impact of the revisions on the HEIPR time series were detailed in an appendix to the main Statistical First Release which is available at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110206224126/http://education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000839/index.shtml>

In December 2010, the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) published an assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics for Higher Education statistics in England and the UK. The Participation Rates in Higher Education Statistical First Release was covered as part of this assessment. The full assessment report is available on the UKSA website at: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-77---higher-education-in-england-and-the-uk.pdf>

9. Accompanying Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

Main tables

Table 1 Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR), 2006/07 to 2014/15 (provisional)

Table 2 Higher Education Initial Participation Rates by Age, 2013/14 and 2014/15 (provisional)

Table 3 Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Males by Age, 2013/14 and 2014/15 (provisional)

Table 4 Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Females by Age, 2013/14 and 2014/15 (provisional)

Supplementary tables

Table A Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR), 1999/00 to 2006/07 (based on old methodology)

Table B Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-20 year olds (HEIPR20), 2006/07 to 2014/15

Table C Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-60 year olds (HEIPR60), 2006/07 to 2014/15

Table D Postgraduate Initial Participation Rate for 17-30 year olds (PGIPR), 2006/07 to 2014/15

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

- The figures in Supplementary Table A show the historical HEIPR time series, prior to the methodology change in 2006/07. These figures are not comparable to the figures in Table 1.
- The figures in Supplementary Tables B, C and D have been derived using similar methods to the HEIPR. The figures for the HEIPR20 are the sums of the age specific initial participation rates for 17 to 20 year olds and are at least as robust as the figures for the HEIPR itself. The figures for the HEIPR60 are the sums of the age specific participation rates for 17 to 60 year olds and are not as robust as the figures for the HEIPR itself because it is not possible to check as thoroughly whether participants aged 31 to 60 are initial participants. The HEIPR20 and HEIPR60 provide estimates for a narrower and wider definition of first-time participation and enable comparability with statistics published by other countries.

10. Supplementary Tables

Table A: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 1999/00 to 2006/07 (based on old methodology).

Academic Year	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07
HEIPR (male and female) %	39	40	40	41	41	40	43	40
	(39.2)	(39.6)	(40.1)	(41.2)	(40.6)	(40.4)	(43.1)	(40.4)
Initial entrants (thousands)	238	238	244	255	258	261	281	270
HEIPR (male) %	37	37	36	37	36	36	39	36
	(37.0)	(36.6)	(36.5)	(37.2)	(36.0)	(36.1)	(38.7)	(36.1)
Initial entrants (thousands)	113	111	112	117	117	118	127	122
HEIPR (female) %	42	43	44	45	45	45	47	45
	(42.2)	(42.9)	(43.9)	(44.9)	(45.5)	(44.8)	(47.0)	(45.4)
Initial entrants (thousands)	125	127	131	138	142	143	153	148
HEIPR (full-time) %	34	34	35	36	35	35	37	35
	(33.6)	(34.4)	(35.0)	(35.6)	(34.8)	(34.8)	(37.2)	(34.6)
Initial entrants (thousands)	202	205	211	220	222	224	243	231
HEIPR (part-time) %	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
	(5.6)	(5.2)	(5.1)	(5.5)	(5.7)	(5.7)	(5.9)	(5.8)
Initial entrants (thousands)	36	33	33	35	37	37	39	39

Notes

Figures in this table are not comparable to the later figures shown in Table 1.

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised population estimates.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

Table B: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-20 year olds (HEIPR20) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 2006/07 to 2014/15

Academic Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15 (Provisional)
HEIPR20 (male and female) %	34 (33.6)	35 (35.0)	37 (36.6)	37 (37.3)	38 (37.8)	42 (41.5)	36 (36.2)	40 (40.0)	41 (41.5)
Initial entrants (thousands)	223	234	248	259	263	283	244	266	275
HEIPR20 (male) %	31 (30.6)	32 (31.9)	33 (33.2)	34 (33.9)	35 (34.7)	38 (38.1)	33 (32.8)	36 (36.3)	37 (37.4)
Initial entrants (thousands)	103	108	114	120	123	133	113	124	128
HEIPR20 (female) %	37 (36.6)	38 (38.2)	40 (40.2)	41 (40.9)	41 (41.0)	45 (45.1)	40 (39.8)	44 (43.9)	46 (45.8)
Initial entrants (thousands)	120	126	134	139	140	151	131	142	147
HEIPR20 (full-time) %	32 (31.8)	33 (33.1)	35 (34.7)	35 (35.4)	36 (35.8)	39 (39.4)	35 (34.6)	38 (38.4)	40 (39.9)
Initial entrants (thousands)	212	222	235	245	249	269	233	255	265
HEIPR20 (part-time) %	2 (1.8)	2 (1.8)	2 (1.9)	2 (1.9)	2 (2.0)	2 (2.1)	2 (1.6)	2 (1.6)	2 (1.6)
Initial entrants (thousands)	12	12	13	13	14	15	11	11	11

Notes

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

Table C: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-60 year olds (HEIPR60) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 2006/07 to 2014/15

Academic Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15 (Provisional)
HEIPR60 (male and female) %	52 (52.4)	53 (52.7)	54 (54.1)	54 (54.4)	54 (54.0)	57 (56.7)	49 (48.5)	51 (51.3)	53 (53.1)
Initial entrants (thousands)	356	359	373	381	380	393	334	349	360
HEIPR60 (male) %	45 (44.7)	45 (45.2)	47 (46.9)	47 (47.3)	48 (47.5)	50 (50.4)	43 (42.6)	46 (45.6)	47 (46.8)
Initial entrants (thousands)	152	155	163	167	169	177	149	158	162
HEIPR60 (female) %	60 (60.1)	60 (60.2)	61 (61.4)	62 (61.6)	61 (60.6)	63 (63.0)	55 (54.5)	57 (57.3)	60 (59.6)
Initial entrants (thousands)	204	205	210	214	211	216	185	191	198
HEIPR60 (full-time) %	38 (38.0)	39 (39.4)	41 (41.3)	42 (42.3)	42 (42.3)	45 (45.4)	40 (40.0)	44 (44.2)	46 (46.1)
Initial entrants (thousands)	255	266	282	295	296	312	272	297	310
HEIPR60 (part-time) %	14 (14.4)	13 (13.2)	13 (12.8)	12 (12.1)	12 (11.7)	11 (11.3)	9 (8.5)	7 (7.2)	7 (6.9)
Initial entrants (thousands)	101	94	91	86	84	81	61	51	50

Notes

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

Table D: Postgraduate Initial Participation Rate (PGIPR) for English domiciled 17-30 year old first time participants in Postgraduate Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions: 2006/07 to 2014/15

Academic Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15 (Provisional)
PGIPR (male and female) %	9 (8.7)	8 (8.2)	9 (8.8)	10 (9.7)	9 (9.1)	9 (8.9)	8 (8.3)	8 (8.5)	9 (8.8)
Initial entrants (thousands)	59	57	62	69	66	65	61	62	64
PGIPR (male) %	7 (6.8)	7 (6.6)	7 (6.9)	8 (7.9)	7 (7.3)	7 (7.1)	6 (6.4)	7 (6.6)	7 (6.8)
Initial entrants (thousands)	23	23	24	28	26	26	24	24	25
PGIPR (female) %	11 (10.6)	10 (9.9)	11 (10.7)	12 (11.5)	11 (11.0)	11 (10.8)	10 (10.2)	10 (10.4)	11 (10.8)
Initial entrants (thousands)	36	34	37	41	40	39	37	38	39
PGIPR (full-time) %	6 (5.9)	6 (5.6)	6 (5.8)	7 (6.7)	6 (6.3)	7 (6.5)	6 (6.0)	6 (6.2)	6 (6.3)
Initial entrants (thousands)	40	39	41	47	45	47	44	45	46
PGIPR (part-time) %	3 (2.8)	3 (2.7)	3 (3.0)	3 (3.1)	3 (2.8)	2 (2.4)	2 (2.3)	2 (2.3)	2 (2.4)
Initial entrants (thousands)	19	18	21	22	20	18	16	17	18

Notes

Figures for the PGIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>

11. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

12. Get in touch

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